

**REPORT TO:** Environment & Urban Renewal Policy & Performance Board

**DATE:** 10<sup>th</sup> September 2014

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Communities

**PORTFOLIO:** Physical Environment

**SUBJECT:** Petition – Request for a Play/Sports Area Somerville Road Widnes

**WARD(S)** Riverside

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To consider a petition received from a resident of Somerville Road, Widnes, requesting that the council create a play or a sports area in the local area.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Members of the Board consider the request of the petition.**

**3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 A petition containing 43 names was submitted to the council on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2014. The petition is a request for the council to create a play area or a sports area in the Somerville Road area.

3.2 There are three existing play areas within one mile of Somerville Road. The nearest is at Ditton Community Centre (within 500 metres). The next nearest facility is at Milton Road (within 700 metres) and the furthest is at Hough Green Park (over 700metres). There is an existing multi-games sports area within one mile of Somerville Road at Royal Avenue. The nearest area of council owned public open space is to the south of Montgomery Road or to the east of Cunningham Road. A map showing the council owned open space facilities within the area is shown as *appendix 1*.

3.3 There are 39 equipped children's play areas throughout the Borough and 7 multi games areas. The council's playgrounds and multi-games areas are all in good condition all of them having been built or substantially refurbished in the last 10 years. The council currently has adequate resources to maintain its current sites but it would be unable to resource additional facilities without additional revenue.

3.4 The most suitable space that is in the Council's ownership on which a play area or a multi-sports area could be accommodated is on the land to the south of Montgomery Road.

#### 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None identified.

#### 5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 To create a play area close to Somerville Road would require a significant capital sum (at least £50,000) and ongoing revenue of £4,500 per year.

#### 6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

##### 6.1 **Children and Young People in Halton**

Play areas and multi-sports areas are beneficial to children and young people as they provide a safe environment in which they can play and interact with their peers.

##### 6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None identified.

##### 6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Play areas and multi-sports areas promote health. Children are able to exercise through play with all of the associated benefits such activity brings.

##### 6.4 **A Safer Halton**

Play areas provide a safe space for children and young people.

##### 6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

The creation of play areas has contributed to urban renewal by improving areas which in turn makes them more valued by the community.

#### 7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 None identified.

#### 8.0 **EQUALITY & DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 There are no Equality and Diversity issues associated with this report.

#### 9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None under the meaning of the Act.